

Thomas M. Folds  
Dean of Education  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York 28, New York

Lecture: Friday, April 7, 1961, 8:15 p.m.  
"Frank Lloyd Wright and the Guggenheim Museum"

Born: Connellsville, Pa.

Education: Yale College, B. A., 1930. Yale School of Fine Arts (painting) B.F.A.  
1934

Career History: Mural Painter (project leader) P.W.A., 1934  
Magazine cartoonist, 1930-36  
English instructor, 1934-5, and art director, 1935-46, The Phillips  
Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H.  
Professor of Art and Chairman, Dept. of Art, Northwestern Univ., 1946-60.  
Dean of Education, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1960-

Travel: England, Holland, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, 1929, 1936.

Publications: Articles on art and architecture in Magazine of Art, 1939.  
Architectural Forum, 1940, College Art Journal, 1949, 1956, 1959,  
Consumer Reports, 1943, Art News, 1959, Art Directions, 1959, etc.  
1 book (text and illustrations) for children; 1 on design for adolescents.

Other Biographical Facts: Design of traveling exhibitions (schools,  
colleges and museums) from 1936 - 1946 on architecture, community  
planning, industrial design, painting, etc.  
Design consultant to various Chicago business firms, 1949-1960  
(including architectural firm of Holabird, Root, and Burger).  
Thirty programs on national and local television networks on  
art and architecture, 1954-1957. Special lecturer, 9 International  
Design Conference, Aspen, Col., 1959,

Aim and Scope of Lecture: Why did Wright choose a spiral form for  
the Guggenheim Museum? What historical precedents are there for  
its great central hall surrounded by balconies and capped by a  
glass dome? Did Wright really believe that the spiral gallery  
would make the most functional background for the display of  
paintings and sculpture, or had he merely become obsessed with  
the spiral as a fascinating architectural motif in the development  
of his own style during the 1940's and 1950's? What relation  
has the plan of the Guggenheim to the work of Le Corbusier and  
other contemporary European architects? Finally, how should we  
judge the Guggenheim - as a functional museum, as a work of art,  
or both?